



THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC



JUL 17 2009

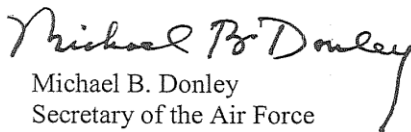
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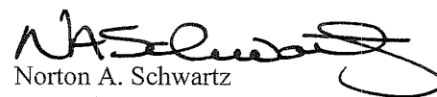
SUBJECT: Year of the Air Force Family

We are pleased to announce July 2009 to July 2010 as the "Year of the Air Force Family." Our Air Force Family is as dynamic and diverse as the unique Airmen and families it encompasses. It includes Active Duty, Reserve and Guard component members; officer and enlisted, civilians, spouses and children. It also extends to parents, friends and community partners who, through everyday actions, provide our Airmen a firm foundation of guidance and support.

Developing and caring for Airmen and their families remains one of our top priorities. We have a long and enviable history of meeting the needs of the Air Force Family through comprehensive Quality of Service initiatives. Such initiatives strengthen our families and are important to the readiness and retention of our Airmen. During the Year of the Air Force Family we will examine our existing services and look for ways to evolve and expand them to meet the changing needs and expectations of our Airmen, their families, and the larger Air Force Family as well.

Join us throughout the year in celebrating the achievements and contributions of the Air Force Family. In November we will participate in National Military Family Appreciation Month and set aside the week of 1-7 November to celebrate Air Force Family Week. During that week, we encourage each installation to promote the spirit of the Air Force Family in their planned activities, programs and events. Members of our Air Force Family truly are our greatest assets and this year of observance provides the perfect opportunity to say "thank you" and recognize the continuous, positive gifts they bring to our Air Force.


Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force


Norton A. Schwartz
General, USAF
Chief of Staff